

BEFORE THE  
**Federal Communications Commission**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of )

Amendment of Part 90 of the )  
Commission's Rules to Facilitate )  
Future Development of SMR Systems )  
in the 800 MHz Frequency Band )

PR Docket No. 93-144

To: The Commission

**COMMENTS OF APCO**

The Associate Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc. ("APCO") hereby submits the following comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-captioned proceeding.

APCO is the nation's oldest and largest public safety communications organization representing the interests of all elements of the public safety land mobile radio community. APCO has nearly 10,000 members involved in the management and operation of radio communications systems for police, fire, state and local government, emergency medical, forestry conservation, highway maintenance, and other public safety services. APCO is the FCC-certified Frequency Coordinator for all Part 90 Police, Local Government and 420 MHz and 800 MHz Public Safety channels.

The Commission proposes to create a new type of wide-area SMR license known as "Expanded Mobile Service Provider" or "EMSP", which would be limited to SMR Category channels

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under Section 90.617 (table 4A). Notice at ¶32. However, the Commission also seeks comment as to whether it should permit General Category channels to be included into EMSP licenses. APCO would oppose such an expansion as it would lead to a greater danger of interference to public safety operations in the General Category channels.

Many public safety licensees in the 800 MHz General Category have experienced interference from the increasing number of SMR mobile units roaming at and beyond the edges of SMR service areas. Indeed, SMR units using "talk-around" mode often wander well beyond SMR service areas.

Interference occurs in these cases to nearby public safety operations that, unfortunately, are not subject to FCC interference protection other than from the SMR base

John D. Tane